

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Lee Terry (R-NE) today voted to ensure continued access to drugs for seniors, voting against H.R. 4, the Democrat Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007.

As a member of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, Terry assisted in crafting the Medicare Part D legislation that was signed into law in December of 2003.

Terry made the following comments:

"This bill is nothing more than smoke and mirrors and it will leave seniors vulnerable," said Terry. "I will not vote to restrict seniors' access to critical, life-saving drugs or to the community pharmacies they use, and I will not vote against personal choice.

"After a successful year with Part D, seniors are reaping the benefits and we are missing the perfect opportunity to address some of the issues, such as the donut hole, that would actually benefit seniors.

"I don't believe that beltway bureaucrats are better equipped than our local doctors to get the medicine they need. When the private sector can perform more efficiently and achieve better results than the federal government, the private sector should do so.

Adoption of this bill will put us on the way to socialized healthcare, a result I don't believe any American really wants.

This is why I voted no on H.R. 4."

With H.R. 4 requiring the government to negotiate drug prices, government will have to issue a limited list of government-approved prescriptions and pharmacies in order to find further savings.

Under this plan, Medicare could have to restrict access to many drugs that treat

cancer, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Seniors currently have access to virtually all of the available drugs in these disease categories.

In addition, requiring the government to negotiate drug prices will not save the program money, according to both CBO and CMS actuaries. CBO states that, "H.R. 4 would have a negligible effect on federal spending."

[Click here](#) to hear Congressman Lee Terry explain his stance on H.R. 4.





